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BOROUGH OF BECCLES



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1958



MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.

B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1958

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	H. E. NUTTEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	E. H. CRANMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
MEAT INSPECTOR (part-time)	J. C. TAYLOR, M.R.C.V.S.

21st May, 1959.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES,
SUFFOLK.



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B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Beccles Borough
Council.

Your Worship, Mrs. Taylor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1958.

There has been a decrease in the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, for the third successive year. In 1955 the estimated population was 7,130 and in mid 1958 it was 6,980 - a decrease of 150.

Although there were four more births than the previous year, the adjusted Birth Rate is still somewhat lower than the National average.

It is gratifying to note that the Maternal Mortality is again Nil. No maternal deaths have been recorded in the Borough for at least eight years. The Infant Mortality Rate is, this year, also Nil.

The Adjusted Death Rate is about the same as the National average.

Only two new cases were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. Of the two cases removed from the register, one died and the other removed to another area.

The old Bathing Pool which, because of the polluted water has caused concern for many years, was closed early in July. Swabs taken at that time were positive for salmonella typhimurium and the Pool was closed forthwith.

Altogether the year has been most satisfactory from a Public Health point of view.

The information in the report on food premises, shops, factories and housing is completed by your Public Health Inspector to whom I am indebted.

H. E. NUTTEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
BLYBURGATE,
BECCLES.
SUFFOLK.

21st May, 1959.

Tel. Beccles 3113.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,017
Registrar -General's estimate of population (mid-1958)	6,980
Number of inhabited houses	2,906
Rateable Value	£84,509
Product of penny rate	£336

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Total	49	51	100
Legitimate	48	50	98
Illegitimate	1	1	2
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Total	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE</u>			
Total	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths - all ages	55	40	95
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	-	-	-
Total Live and Still Births			102

RATES

	<u>BECCELES MUNICIPAL BOROUGH</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
Illegitimacy Rate (per 1,000 live births)	20.0	×
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.3	16.4
Adjusted Birth Rate	15.2	-
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	2%	-
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	19.6	21.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (total)	N11	22.5
- do - (legitimate)	N11	×
- do - (illegitimate)	N11	×
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (during first 4 weeks)	N11	16.2
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.6	11.7
Adjusted Death Rate	11.3	-
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	N11	0.43

Comparability Factor (Births) 1.06
Comparability Factor (Deaths) 0.83

× not yet
available

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12	21
18. Coronary disease, angina	15	4	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20. Other heart diseases	11	15	26
21. Other circulatory diseases	-	1	1
22. Influenza	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
31. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL	<u>55</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>95</u>

NOTES ON CAUSES OF DEATH

All Other Accidents

Male. 23 months. Peanut in bronchus. 'Misadventure'.
Male. 38 years. Electrocuted. 'Misadventure'.
Female. 84 years. Fractured leg following a fall at home.
'Accidental'.

DEATHS FROM CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS DURING THE YEARS
1952 - 1958

YEAR	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION
1952	-	-	-	-
1953	1	2	3	0.43
1954	1	1	2	0.28
1955	1	1	2	0.28
1956	1	-	1	0.13
1957	2	1	3	0.43
1958	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	5	11	1.55
AVERAGE				0.22

ADJUSTED BIRTH AND DEATH RATES : COMPARABILITY FACTOR

Local Birth Rates are expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including those who have no influence on the birth rate. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a high proportion of them in a population tends to lower, and a small proportion tends to raise, the true rate. The size of this proportion will vary in different areas and, therefore, the elimination or standardization of such a factor will give a truer comparison between areas.

The Registrar General issues a comparability factor on these lines. Multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by the comparability factor gives the adjusted birth rate and can be compared with the crude rate for England and Wales.

The comparability factor for deaths is obtained in a similar way to the above. The factors for certain areas, where rapid increase or reduction in the population materially affects its comparison by sex and age groups, are also adjusted on that account. Death Rate area comparability factors are adjusted to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. Birth Rate area comparability factors are also adjusted to take account of the presence of sterile populations in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

Table showing the more important causes of death, numbers and percentages.

CAUSE OF DEATH	NO: OF DEATHS		PERCENTAGE	
	1957	1958	1957	1958
Diseases of circulatory system	47	46	58.14	48.42
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	21	9.87	22.10
Malignant diseases	9	9	11.11	9.47
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	8	4	9.87	4.21
Influenza	0	1	-	1.05
All other causes	9	14	11.11	14.73
Total	81	95	100.10	99.98

In 1958, 80% of all deaths fell under the first three headings. The comparable figure for 1957 was 79%, 1956 - 78% and 1955 - 75%.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

YEAR

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>
Population	6,862	6,829	6,903	6,965	7,050	7,130	7,060	7,000	6,980
No. of Inhabited Houses	2,362	2,860	2,927	2,520	2,850	2,880	2,890	2,903	2,906
No. of Live Births	79	78	99	99	95	75	87	96	100
Birth Rate (Crude)	11.6	11.4	14.3	14.2	13.5	10.5	12.3	13.7	14.3
No. of Still Births	4	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	2
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant Mortality Rate	25.3	12.8	30.3	0	10.5	26.7	34.5	20.8	Nil
(No. of Deaths)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(0)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(0)
No. of Deaths (all ages)	88	108	92	82	103	107	112	81	95
Death Rate (crude)	12.9	15.8	13.4	11.7	14.6	15.0	15.8	11.6	13.6

Number of all confirmed cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1958 according to age and sex.

<u>Age</u>	<u>MEASLES</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	-	-	-
1 -	1	1	2
2 -	2	1	3
3 -	4	1	5
4 -	-	3	3
5 - 9	11	5	16
10 - 14	2	1	3
15 - 24	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-
	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>32</u>

Diseases notified during the year, classified according to month of occurrence

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MEASLES</u>
January	29
February	3
March	-
April	-
May	-
June	-
July	-
August	-
September	-
October	-
November	-
December	-
	<u>32</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

In Beccles Municipal Borough in 1958, 100 primary immunisations were carried out by the child welfare clinic and general practitioners. The ages of the children were as follows:-

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Numbers Immunised</u>
1958	21
1957	69
1956	5
1955	-
1954	-
1953	1
1952	3
1951	1
1950	-
1949	-
1948	-
1943-1947	-
<hr/>	
Total	100
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During the same year, 51 booster doses were given.

Primary immunisations:-	1957	91
	1956	73
	1955	55
	1954	93

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>MALES</u>		<u>FEMALES</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>	
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1957.	22	2	6	3	33
No. of cases <u>added</u> during the year	2	-	-	-	2
No. of cases <u>removed</u> during the year.	2	-	-	-	2
No. of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1958.	22	2	6	3	33

Cases added to the Register

New notifications 2

Inward transfers -

2

Total

Cases removed from the Register

Recovered -

Died 1

Removed to other areas 1

2

Total

Cases on the Register, according to age and sex at 31st December, 1958.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 5 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	3	4	7
25 - 44 years	12	3	15
45 - 64 years	7	1	8
65 years and over	1	1	2
Age unknown	-	-	-
	<u>24</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>33</u>

Comparative figures of Tuberculosis at 31st December, 1958

<u>District</u>	<u>Popula- tion</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Cases per 1,000</u>
		<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non- Pulmonary</u>		
Beccles M.B.	6,980	28	5	33	4.7
Blyth R.D.	19,100	55	14	69	3.6
Bungay U.D.	3,580	25	5	30	8.4
Halesworth U.D.	2,350	13	5	18	7.6
Leiston-cum- Sizewell U.D.	4,140	21	3	24	5.7
Wainford R.D.	6,830	19	10	29	4.2

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR
1958

To:-

His Worship the Mayor and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

I present my tenth Annual Report since my appointment in May, 1949 as the Council's Public Health Inspector.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Borough is fortunate in that its relatively compact nature has permitted the great majority of properties to be provided with water-borne drainage. Only some 56 properties are reliant on other means of waste disposal. Pudding Moor is the only sizeable area of dwellings not sewered, but due to its low lying situation in relation to main system, the provision of sewerage will be a considerable operation, the initiation of which has been prevented by economic circumstances.

The sewage disposal system of the Borough was constructed in about 1870. The increase in the number of houses, the increased provision of baths, sinks and water closets have caused the works to be inadequate. Simultaneously, advances in techniques have resulted in their becoming thoroughly outmoded. The result is that whilst sedimentation of solids is reasonably adequate the ultimate effluent is seriously denuded of oxygen.

The following works connected with drainage and sanitary accommodation were carried out during the year:-

Defective water closets renewed	2
Defective drains renewed	8
Defective drains repaired	7
Disused drains abolished	1
Choked drains cleansed	15
Septic tanks and dykes cleansed	2
Sinks and drainage provided	8

Refuse Collection

The weekly collection of refuse is under the control of the Borough Engineer.

Disposal is by controlled tipping on a marsh adjoining the Yachting Station, the intention being to raise the level so that an extension of the Amenities of the Quay can be provided.

In four cases, new dust bins were supplied following the service of informal notices.

Water Supply

Water is supplied to the Borough by the Barsham Bores Joint Water Board, which supplies the Borough of Beccles, the Wainford and Lothingland Rural Districts, and part of the Borough of Lowestoft.

It has of course been sampled regularly on behalf of the Joint Board, and found to be chemically and bacteriologically satisfactory.

Two properties formerly supplied with well water were provided with piped internal supplies during the year.

There are eight properties in London Road not on a main supply. The provision of a new Water Tower and extension of mains will enable five of them to be supplied in the near future, the other three are to be provided with piped water by arrangement with the adjoining Local Authority.

There will remain only four properties, all in isolated situations not provided with piped water.

Abatement of Nuisances

One nuisance due to the keeping of poultry in an unsuitable place and manner was abated during the year.

Spraying of dykes in an effort to lessen the nuisance caused by mosquitoes was undertaken during the summer months.

Intermittent smoke nuisances were noted from two factories during the year - these are under observation.

It is pleasing to record as an incidental result of the modernisation of railways running through Beccles a very considerable reduction in smoke from that source, caused by the replacement of steam powered engines by Diesel.

Bathing Pool

The old Bathing Pool at Pudding Moor which was merely a fenced off part of the River Waveney, and was demonstrably sewage polluted, has been a cause of concern for years. It is pleasing to record that it was in use for the last time in 1958, the Council having decided to build a new Pool, with modern water circulating and treatment plant.

That being so, the reports of observations carried out are of only academic interest. Twenty-five swabs were submitted from the Pool and adjoining parts of the river and thirteen specimens of water from the Pool and the reports submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

Demolition of Unfit Houses

Three further unfit houses were demolished during the year.

The following is a summary of the Council's post-war drive to secure the abolition of unfit properties in the Borough:-

Houses demolished	39
-------------------	----

Houses thoroughly re-conditioned and made fit (not including work under 'Repair' Sections of Act)	5
--	---

Demolition Orders Served, but houses still occupied	12
Demolition Orders served, tenants re-housed, but demolition not practicable as integrated with occupied houses	12
Property acquired by Council with a view to re-development of the Area	8
Closing Orders served, and premises no longer used for human habitation	2
Closing Orders served but premises still occupied	3

Housing Repairs

The long standing grievance felt by some property owners by the tying of rents contrasted with the rising cost of repairs has been to some extent removed by the passing of the Rent Act, 1957, which, subject to certain conditions, has permitted limited rent increases. Locally, the Act has operated more smoothly than could have been anticipated. In the great majority of cases, agreement has been reached between landlord and tenant, and in only one case was the intervention of the Council sought, and a Certificate of Disrepairs issued.

Repairs were carried out to thirty-eight dwelling houses as a result of the service of informal notices.

Housing Improvement

Improvement grants were made in respect of 16 houses during the year.

FOOD PREPARATION, HANDLING AND SALE

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Practically all premises where food is prepared, stored or sold in the Borough were inspected during the year.

The following works were executed as a result of informal representations:-

More readily accessible water supply provided	3
Constant supply of hot water provided	10
Sink and drainage provided	2
Wash basin provided	1
Drainage improved	2

Dairies

There are three dairies in the Borough, two processors and distributors of pasteurised milk and one producer of Tuberculin tested milk. One pasteurising plant was maintained and run in a satisfactory manner; in the case of the other, completely new premises were being built during 1958, and should be in use in the coming year.

The control of the dairy of the milk producer is, of course, the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Slaughterhouses

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Two are attached to local butchery businesses. Although they lack some refinements, this has been largely offset by the care of the proprietors and their staff.

The third business 'exports' the majority of its products. It was transferred during 1958 from the premises in Caxton Road which formerly housed it to a new and modern abattoir.

The abatement of a serious public health nuisance which has resulted from this; the improvement in the conditions under which food is prepared; the provision of additional industrial development and employment are causes for the greatest satisfaction.

Meat Inspection

The continuing increase in slaughtering in the Borough has brought with it attendant problems in meat inspection. It is interesting to note that almost without exception, there has been an increase in overall slaughtering for each of the last nine years, comparisons between 1950 and 1959 being as follows:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total</u>
1950	1,656	299	3,202	1,707	6,864
1958	6,482	6,076	265	181	13,004

The inspection of all carcasses and offals before release for human consumption has been regarded as a matter of principle but to maintain it has often been a matter of difficulty.

It was found necessary to condemn the following carcasses and organs as being unfit for human consumption during the year:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
No. killed	6,482	181	265	6,076
No. inspected	6,482	181	265	6,076
<u>All diseases except tuber- culosis and Cysticerci</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	13	8	-	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,423	3	-	287
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	22.1%	6.0%	-	4.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	69	2	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	722	-	-	82
Percentage of the No. inspec- ted affected with tuberculosis	12.1%	1.1%	-	1.3%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

Other Foods

The following items of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned Foods

Meat	37
Fruit	39
Vegetables	64
Fish	20
Milk	16
<u>Miscellaneous items</u>	95

Disposal of Condemned Food

Condemned meat was sold for processing and subsequent sale as fertilisers or animal feeding.

Other condemned food was burned on the Council's tip.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council continued to employ one full time rodent operator.

In recent years, the sewers of the Borough have been treated every three months in an effort to reduce the rat population, since it has been felt for some time that, with the possible exception of premises adjoining agricultural land in the outskirts, the sewers were the root of the great majority of rat infestation in the Borough.

It would appear that this work is beginning to show results. It was usual in the not-too distant past for 50% of the 155 man-holes in the Borough to show evidence of rats. Generally, only 5 or 6 manholes now show such evidence. There has been a parallel improvement in surface infestations in the built-up area of the Borough.

It was found necessary to treat 164 premises for the presence of rats or mice during the year. If accompanied by improved hygiene (such as the repair of broken drains) a permanent remedy was usually effected.

FACTORIES

There are 54 factories with Mechanical Power in the Borough and 1 'non-power' factory.

In all cases where necessary, Certificates of adequate means of Escape in Case of Fire have been provided.

E. H. CRANMER.

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1959.

